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A voice for the community
New business Zygoptera Consulting wants to be an 'environmental voice' for Haliburton County. See page 2.

Latest from SIRCH
Donations via Thrift Warehouse help four individuals get back on their feet. See page 4.

Far from sweet season
Maple syrup yields drop this year as warm weather arrives early. See page 7.

Adventure and the great blue beyond awaits. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Zygoptera aiming to be 'environmental voice' for Haliburton County

MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

While their company name may translate directly as damselfly, the trio of women who have recently come together to form Zygoptera Consulting are anything but your stereotypical damsels in distress.

Launching a new business during a global pandemic is a bold move, but for Katie Paroschy, Carmen Pereira and Sarah Sinclair it seemed the opportune time to turn their collective dream into a reality.

After meeting at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre several years ago, and quickly becoming friends, the three women harboured hopes of one day going into business for themselves – combining their individual specialties in biology and ecology to create something they could call their own.

From left, Katie Paroschy, Sarah Sinclair and Carmen Pereira have come together to form the environmental consulting firm Zygoptera Consulting, after spending years working together at the Dorset Environment Science Centre. /SUBMITTED

"We would have these little talks, and these conversations while we were working and doing our various jobs. While working in Dorset, we kind of came together in the biology labs doing benthic assessments – basically studies of insects that live on the bottom of lakes. That's how we came up with the name Zygoptera – it's the scientific name for a damselfly, which is a popular benthic insect," Paroschy said.

She added, "Since our time in Dorset, we've gone on different paths but we've all found ourselves either underemployed, or unemployed for various reasons due to the pandemic and government cutbacks, so instead of drifting further from what we love to do, which is protecting the environment, helping our communities and working with great people, we thought we'd try our hand at business and incorporate all of our skills under one umbrella."

Those skills are far-reaching. Serving the Haliburton, Parry Sound, Muskoka and Simcoe County regions, Zygoptera Consulting offers a variety of services "to help people and organizations get their projects done," as Paroschy states.

The trio are capable of carrying out extensive environmental assessments, lake studies, wildlife surveys, taxonomic identification, shoreline and property naturalization, auditing, project analysis and peer review for anything in the environmental field. Paroschy says the company can also help individuals with residential and small commercial development land permit assessments.

"I come from a planning background, so if anyone wants to put an addition on a house, or build a deck and they don't want to go through the paperwork themselves, we can do that for them," Paroschy said. "We also do aquatic and insect research, limnology – which is the study of fishes in lakes."

Pereira is currently completing her PhD on the study of algae, while Sinclair is one of the leading biologists in Ontario when it comes to benthic assessments. Benthic assessments, Pereira says, can give a really good reading on water quality in a lake.

"It's probably one of the best and most inexpensive ways of assessing water quality," Pereira said.

Given the controversy surrounding the County of Haliburton's review of its shoreline preservation bylaw, Paroschy says that's one of the areas Zygoptera will be focusing on assisting with and providing more information on over the coming months.

"There are lots of construction companies and landscape companies that are worried about permitting, and I'm sure many are thinking 'oh my gosh, there's now going to be another layer to this', so we're hoping to offer our services to assist with, or complete that work for them," Paroschy said.

While the team are excited to finally get their new venture off the ground, they expect it will be something of a slow burner as they seek to establish themselves in the community.

There's clear excitement in their voices as the three women take turns speaking about the business and their goals for the future.

"We really want to be involved in our community, and really help better the environment in our community in any way that we can. That's one of our core goals," Paroschy said. "We would really like to be community voices in any way that we can, and educate people about the importance of our local environment in Haliburton and Muskoka."

For more information, visit www.zygoptera.ca.

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

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Lineup announced for latest 6-Minute-Escape event

MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands [ACHH] and the Haliburton Reads and Writes committee have announced the lineup for the second *6-Minute Escape* event.

Taking place on May 14, this second episode of the *6-Minute Escape* focuses on the theme of transformation. The video will be available to watch on YouTube and will feature stories from local artists who will be sharing stories of the transformation of their chosen work.

The lineup for this event includes the local talents of Kathleen Dewar, Danielle Martin, Marcia Mandel, June Krisko, Marie Gage, Rosana Dewey and special guest singer songwriter Linda McRae.

"The past year of lockdown, restrictions and uncertainty has affected us all. The Readers and Writers committee hopes the creative imagery you will experience will lift your spirits and allow you to escape into another dimension," said Gage, a member of the committee.

The *6-Minute Escape* is a fundraiser for the ACHH, created to try and raise money for the organization during these trying times. All donations help ACHH continue their work in promoting and nurturing the arts and artists of Haliburton County, says Kate Butler, an ACHH member.

This event will be co-hosted by Butler and Erin Kernohan-Berning, branch services librarian of the Haliburton County Public Library.

"This program will provide us all with a much-needed escape and allow us to witness first-hand the transformation these brilliant artists bring to our world," Kernohan-Berning said.

After the seven short videos are broadcast, viewers are invited to an online after party, where video presenters will be available virtually for a question and answer session.

"Although we cannot mingle in the same room, we will have the opportunity to chat with these brilliant artists," Butler said.

There is no cost to attend the launch, however Butler says any donation would be greatly appreciated. It will help the Arts Council support arts, heritage and culture across Haliburton County. To donate, visit www.gofundme.com/f/6-minute-escape.

GET IT online
www.haliburtonecho.ca

Echo/Times recognized for continued excellence at 2020 OCNA Awards

MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The *Haliburton County Echo* scooped five first-place finishes, two second-place finishes and three third-place finishes at the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's 2020 Better Newspaper Competition.

During a virtual ceremony held on Friday afternoon [April 23], the *Echo* was recognized for its work across several categories.

Reporter Sue Tiffin took first in the Environment Writing category for her feature story on At Last Forest Schools, which opened a facility at Abbey Gardens last spring, just prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Former editor Jenn Watt was recognized for her work on a story shining a light on some of the issues Ontario's teachers' associations had with the provincial government during last year's school strikes, securing the top award in the Education Writing category.

Watt also took first-place in the Heritage category, writing about a pair of local women who developed a strong bond and long-lasting friendship having worked together on the Family Roots pilot project run by SIRCH Community Services.

Having long forged a reputation as one of the best photo journalists in Ontario over a career that has spanned almost two decades, Darren Lum was officially recognized as the OCNA's 2020 Photographer of the Year. Lum also took first-place for Best Sports Photo for a perfectly-timed shot while covering the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Red Hawks senior basketball team last spring.

The *Echo* took second-place in the Best Sports Section category, for a story and collection of photos covering the Red Hawks' basketball team, while Watt took second in the Health and Wellness category for her piece on a PSW shortage in Haliburton last year that left a local man near helpless, without the care he needed to get by day-to-day.

An entertaining piece by Lum on a local artist's daily account of the COVID-19 pandemic through a series of self-portraits secured third-place in the Arts and Entertainment category, while Watt was similarly recognized for her creativity in Headline Writing.

The *Echo* was then honoured with the third-place award in General Excellence in its circulation category.

Sister publication the *Minden Times* also had quite the haul this year, taking home three prizes. Popular writer Jim Poling Sr. was recognized as Ontario's Columnist of the Year, while the publication also received a second-place award in Education Writing, written by Sue Tiffin, and a third-place award for Best News Story, written by Chad Ingram.

WANTED
Historical photos from around Haliburton County
Preferably from before 1970
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SIRCH For A Better World: Seeing the invisible

There is no doubt that the challenges people are facing right now are many. A year into this pandemic and people are feeling hopeless, stressed and at their limit. The finish line seems like it is being pushed further and further away by the day.

Although it may be harder to find it these days, there is still good news taking place on a daily basis. There are small wins all around us.

This week SIRCH Community Services, through the Thrift Warehouse, helped furnish four apartments for individuals who were in a shelter. One of the individuals had nothing except for some clothing. No family, no support, nowhere to live.

Two community organizations approached SIRCH, and Thrift Warehouse (a SIRCH social enterprise) was able to give those individuals a variety of household items.

A housing support worker wrote of one of the recipients, "The senior is on a fixed income and has fallen on hard times resulting in homelessness. After the very generous donation from the [Thrift] Warehouse our client is being housed with a fresh, clean, ready to go, apartment! This included all the basic needs and starter pack a home should have, everything from a couch to kitchen utensils. This gives our clients the opportunity to have a place to really feel like home, especially as they don't have the ability to be able to do this on their own during a pandemic. The support and teamwork has been so seamless, and we are amazed with how quickly the [staff] have committed to gathering and preparing these items for a curbside pickup."

Staff at Thrift Warehouse find furniture to help community members in need. This past week SIRCH Community Services, through the Thrift Warehouse, helped furnish four apartments for individuals who were in a shelter. Two community organizations approached SIRCH, and Thrift Warehouse (a SIRCH social enterprise) was able to give those individuals a variety of household items. /PHOTO SUBMITTED

It is testimonials such as this that remind us of the importance of pulling together, especially in the midst of a pandemic.

At this time the Thrift Warehouse is not open for indoor shopping, due to the government's lockdown restrictions, however they are open for donation drop offs [of select items] on Tuesdays and Saturdays. We know people are moving into the community, selling, buying and organizing their homes and that you may have furniture or appliances to donate but can't wait until lockdown is over to dispose of them. Please keep Thrift Warehouse in mind, as your donation could be essential to someone who was homeless and is finally able to make a home. What a difference you can make in someone's life! COVID protocols will be followed to ensure your donation is accepted in a safe manner. At this time we are accepting furniture, mattresses, small and large appliances and outdoor furniture.

During the past few months SIRCH continues to offer its free training programs to help individuals find a career path. This type of programming is needed now more then ever.

An Angus Reid study of 2,500 Canadian employees laid off with COVID cutbacks, released this month, says that due to the pandemic a number of businesses closed their doors or drastically cut back on hours and continue to do so. The result has been a historic economic recession in Canada. The drop in economic productivity has been unprecedented and millions of Canadians became unemployed after the first onset of lockdown measures.

SIRCH's training programs give individuals the skills and confidence they need to find a meaningful career. For example, our Cook It Up trainees have started serving their famous three-course lunches [take out only] at the SIRCH Bistro on Wednesdays. This practical training will produce kitchen help and entrepreneurs who are confident and ready to work. If you would thrive in a small groups and one on one instruction, give SIRCH a call.

For those interesting in learning more visit www.sirch.on.ca or call 705-457-1742.

Submitted by SIRCH Community Services

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CMCA AUDITED

A CPR express train ends a literacy career

MICHAEL BARNES
Special to *County Life*

On July 8, 1913 a recent immigrant to Canada met sudden death just two miles west of Chapleau. A fast moving CPR express train struck the newcomer as he walked the tracks and Louis Hemon died almost instantly.

How could the few mourners who attended his funeral know that a great Canadian novelist had died just after creating a literary masterpiece? They likely had never heard of the novel of Quebec rural life, Maria Chapdelaine.

Louis Hemon was only 33 when he died and had spent less than two years in his adopted country. Although his early work as a journalist showed great promise, he would likely have been forgotten were it not for the great novel he wrote, which only became prominent after his death.

Hemon was born in Brest, France in 1880. His parents were people of some means because they sent him to be educated in Paris. He studied law but then switched to Oriental languages, hoping to enter the diplomatic service.

But instead he followed his inclination to literature and began writing for papers and magazines. He won prizes for his writing and early recognition. Then the young writer left his native country at the age of 23 and spent eight years in England. Surprisingly he spent most of the time in slum districts of London but this was all grist to his writing mill.

Along the way he married an Irish woman and they had a daughter but his wife died soon after. Hemon sent the little girl to live with relatives in France.

During his eight years in London, Hemon wrote for French magazines and produced three novels. One of them about slum life was serialized in a prominent Parisian paper.

Louis Hemon was 31 when he came to Canada. He had to support himself so took a tedious job in Montreal as a translator for a hardware firm. But then he moved inland to the bush area north of Lac Saint-Jean.

He picked up a job as a farm hand, although he knew little of country life. The family he stayed with paid him $8 a month and board. Hemon insisted on having Saturday afternoons off for himself.

Local people had no interest in the new farm worker except to observe that he was different from them. Hemon was a shy, reserved man and he found the farm chores and heavy work like clearing land and pulling stumps hard and was exhausted at the end of every day.

Local people saw him as awkward and inept and he gained the reputation of being the worst hired man north of the lake.

None of his critics knew Hemon well, but his employers did see him writing in a copy book. His interest was the land and the people who lived there.

Hemon quit his job and finished his novel Maria Chapdelaine. Then in the winter of 1912 to 1913 he trekked north and took a job in the bush near Kenogami, just north of the new gold town of Kirkland Lake.

There was one more trip to Montreal where he sent off his manuscript to the Lac St. Jean book. Hemon was not aware of the culture in his adopted country, so he sent his story to a publishing house in Paris.

The wanderer then went west and he had spent hardly more than 18 months in Canada before a train at Chapleau cut short his promising writing career.

During his lifetime he was better known as a journalist but his novel, published in France eight years after his death, bought him posthumous fame.

The simple story of habitant pioneer life was not initially popular in Quebec where critics thought it an over simplification of rural life. But later the editions in France and in an English translation sold over a million copies.

Today the book is read in many languages and remains popular around the world. Students deservedly study the story of Maria Chapdelaine and Louis Hemon is still admired for his talent and sensitivity. Few people visit the grave at Chapleau of the immigrant who significantly influenced the course of French-Canadian novel writing.

All Canadians should remember him because he left a lasting legacy to his adopted country.

Michael Barnes lives in Minden and can be reached at michaelbarnes53@hotmail.com and is the author of Northern Ontario: The Unknown Country.

Top 10 things you don't want to do on a windy day

SPRING CAN be one of the windiest times of the year. And that brings its own challenges. That's why, in the interest of public safety, we're going to review the top 10 things you should definitely not do on a windy day. They are:

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Show off your tissue paper collection.
2. Spit chewing tobacco into the wind.
3. Finally wear that lightweight kilt.
4. Erect billboards.
5. Be on the downwind side of the badminton court.
6. Forget to consult with the flagpole before you pee.
7. Bungee jump on the windward side of the cliff.
8. Solo canoe on the upwind side of the falls.
9. Share popcorn
10. Compliment anyone walking against the wind, unless you are absolutely certain they're miming.

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Lakes

Rivers flowing into Lakes of Sky,
swelling between banks of clouds,
others, tiny white islands, changing shapes and size,
each time my eyes flutter up to read the map of Sky,
the blue spaces between clouds expanding and contracting,
spilling over the hills, in brilliant silence,
the bald treetops, scratch marks in the distance,
as I climb higher along the hilltop road,
that swerves and curves like the Rivers of Sky floating above me,
currents of Wind changing the course of clouds,
stretching them into wisps, hollowing others,
as blue Lakes spring from their centres,
self-contained,
until the fringes of clouds begin to fray and a blue sea gleams above me,
drenching my senses in the balm of breeze and light
and the warbles of invisible birds returning to the branches they remember,
or maybe choosing different trees in which to build their nests.
I rest my Breath at the top of the hill, the road glistening beneath my feet,
puddles of Sky floating in potholes,
wabbling as my feet slosh through them towards the side of the road,
where the earth slopes down, sprinkled with trees,
their sleeping leaves waiting to unfurl,
one tiny pine sapling, skimming my knees,
sprouting all alone on the border between dirt and road,
its needles, soft as moss as I finger its tips,
wondering whether its parents hover near by,
or whether Wind randomly blew it here,
planting its seed in this particular spot at the top of this road,
so as it grows it will drink in this vista of a Lake,
shimmering different hues of blue, reflecting Sky that floats above it,
the light so clear, the breeze so pure,
it will flourish here for years after I no longer walk this road,
the Rivers still flowing into Lakes of Sky,
clouds changing shapes and size,
as the slopes of hills swell with trees,
ancient limbs birthing newborn leaves.

Sylvie Kalenda

Highlands resident Bill Beatty, who has decades of experience collecting sap to make into maple syrup, looks back to the direction of his wife, Anne during the cleanup of his two kilometres of lines at his property last week./DARREN LUM Staff

Optimism for better times despite poor maple syrup season

DARREN LUM
County Life Staff

Area producers are finding the golden colour to an otherwise less-than-sweet season for maple syrup production in what can only be described as a down year when it comes to yields.

The website www.onmaplesyrup.ca, which includes contributors from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs maple syrup team, has labelled 2021 as the "toughest year on record, with the exception of 2012."

It continues, "Most Ontario producers will not be making changes to their historical pricing. However, some will be raising prices slightly, especially those whose prices have remained the same for years. Some smaller producers have already sold their entire stock. Few will have enough to sell to packers this year in favour of keeping enough on hand for their regular customers."

Beatty's Sugar Bush operator Bill Beatty said the season was one of his shortest in the dozens of years since he started with just 12 taps in the 1960s.

Beatty said it was a down year for everyone, as far as he knows.

His production was down to about half of last year's yeild and was close to half a litre per tree, instead of the litre he typically gets.

"It got too hot too fast," he said.

Beatty said he started checking the lines in January and had his first boil on March 22 and then finished with a boil on April 10. There was only eight boils – each boil needs 200 gallons of sap.

With the exception of 300 gallons of sap one day, the rest of the season was devoid of significant return, which Beatty says is far from the norm.

"[It was] 80 or so gallons a day. That's way down from what we should have got," he said.

With 200 taps on five acres of his Haliburton land, located a short drive from the village, he's down to a third of the taps of what he used to have three years ago, which started with boiling on an open stove when he began in the 1960s.

Married for 65 years to his wife, Anne, 86, he's followed her observations about when to start.

"Anne said, 'Until you get the doughnut around the tree ... you're not going to get sap. That's why we didn't even rush into the tapping. I was late to tapping for that reason. I felt no sense going out if there [is no sap] ... it's strictly weather. That's all you can do," he said.

At 88, Beatty is likely the oldest producer in Haliburton County.

He not only acknowledges his wife Anne as the 'boss' and responsible for quality control of the operation, but also sees a value in being actively engaged for his quality of life.

About the only time he didn't produce maple syrup was from a few years ago when he was recovering from a heart attack.

Despite initial advice by a cardiologist to take it easy after he was recovered, he found a cardiologist that loved maple syrup and offered his blessing to continue whatever made him happy and healthy.

Other times of the year when Beatty is not busy with maple syrup, he's working on his property, or maintaining the cottage he rents out in the summer.

At his age things take a little longer, he said. The 200 taps took six days to get ready, instead of the two it took him in his earlier years.

Although farming wasn't his life career, he got an early start with working the land during the Second World War. At eight-years-old, he was enlisted to help his grandfather work the family farm in a small community called Garden Hill, located north of Port Hope. It was only a few years later that he started helping his uncle with his maple syrup production.

With the way the spring went, he wondered about delaying the cleaning of the sap lines and leaving the taps to continue to collect this past week.

"It was a strange, strange year," he said.

see page 8

Your turn is coming soon.

Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine plan is helping to stop the spread and save lives. Thousands of people across the province are getting vaccinated every day.

As vaccinations continue, we need to stay the course to protect those we love. Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Keep your distance.

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Highlands summer festival 2021 Live Theatre

Welcome to the Highlands Summer Festival Photo Contest

Each month we post a photo from one of the shows we presented over the past two decades. The challenge for you is to identify the show and the year it was presented. There could be additional questions as well, depending on the whims of the quizmaster. All you have to do is submit your answers to

contest@highlandssummerfestival.on.ca

by the 25th of the month. We will select one winner from all the correct entries we receive. The winner will receive two tickets to any of the next season's shows. A new photo will be posted at the beginning of each month at which time we'll announce the winner of the previous contest.

It is as simple as that.

• No entry fee • No tickets to buy • No Zoom meetings to attend

….just a nostalgic stroll down our theatrical memory lane and a chance to score some tickets to the next Highlands Summer Festival season.

We have a winner for Contest # 11! Tina Hadley correctly identified Sue Black (jumping on the bed) and Carl Dixon in a scene from the farce Lend Me A Tenor. You can tell it's a farce because behind the actors there are four doors just begging to be slammed…..and that is only half of the set! So on to the next challenge and a pair of tickets waiting for the lucky winner.

Contest #12

The challenge this time is somewhat different. You see here a publicity shot of a cast. None of the actors are in costume although some of the props they hold could be clues. We're looking for the name of the play, the year it was performed and which member of the cast wrote the book, lyrics and music for this play. Can you name the playwright?

Send your entry by May 25 to:
contest@highlandssummerfestival.on.ca
Watch for the winner to be announced and the next contest in this location in early June. *Good Luck!!!*

Ontario producers like Beatty said it was a down year for maple syrup production, which was owed to the weather that shortened the season and caused less sap to flow./ DARREN LUM Staff

Lower yields didn't lower efforts to make the best of a challenging year

from page 7

Esson Creek Maple's Josh Bramham of Greenmantle Farm in Wilberforce also saw less yield with his production this year from 2,200 taps on 60 acres of land, which he works on with his 74-year-old father, Mark, mother, Sandra and wife, Heather. This year his family's operation saw a little more than one litre per tree compared to last year's 1.7 litres. It is an all-time low in the operation's five- year history.

The factors for lower yield was related to the shorter season brought on by the weather.

"It started a little bit later and we had that one week of warm weather. And it was basically the trees were done," he said, referring to April 7.

Other factors included the warm spells.

"It was that last week around April 7 when things were above freezing all week and, you know, 20 degrees. That was when trees were ready to start to make buds and leaves. You know you're done then," he said.

The family's first day of boiling was March 12 and the last day was April 7, which was close to two weeks shorter than last year.

The loss will affect bulk sales he said.

"We'll hold on to more and try to retail it and not sell as many barrels. We kept some stock from previous years and hope we don't run out. We'll try to retail as much as possible," he said.

Retail, he said, is about sales to the public in person and online to customers in the U.S., United Kingdom and Germany, which includes wholesale when they bottle it and sell through local grocery stores in Haliburton, Wilberforce and Harcourt.

Bramham said there is an understanding that this was a poor year related to weather and that there is always next year.

"You can't control the weather ... exactly like any type of farming we're so dependent on the weather, so you kind of just have to ride it out," he said.

Bramham said despite the low yield the quality of the syrup was good.

"Even at the end. Sometimes near the end you get an off taste in your syrup and that's when you stop. And if we do make something like that we'll sell it as a cooking grade. We didn't make any of that. It was all good syrup. We made some nice dark syrup and very dark at the end of the year and it's delicious," he said.

Bramham said the goal for the past five years has been to continue to grow the operation and this low return isn't stopping that. There was 300 taps added this year. He hopes to do the same next year.

They started five years ago with 585 taps.

Before the provincial lockdown, Bramham said they hosted several tours of people.

"It was our busiest year for tours and for, I would say, overall visits to the sugar shack. There was a lot of interest and people. It was before the lockdown and people wanted to get out and do things and experience the maple season," he said.

He adds sales were the best ever during the maple producing season, which was a reversal of last year when tours weren't permitted due to the provincial lockdown. He said it was close to 20 per cent higher than the previous year.

Although he said they won't be selling at the Farmer's Market this year, he

see page 12

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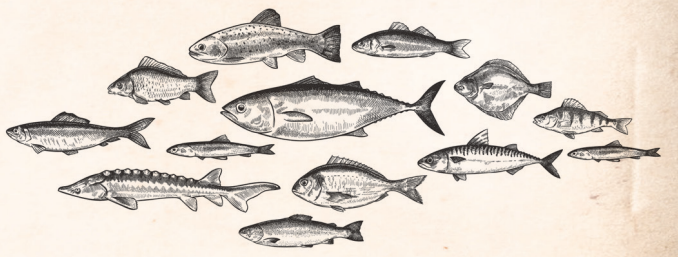
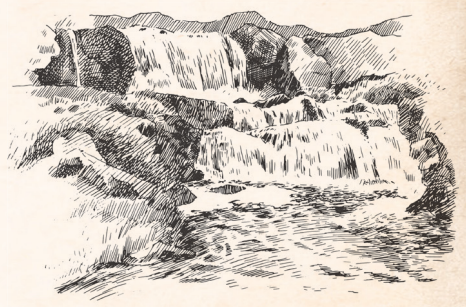
where people live.

These are the fish
that swim in the lake
where people live.



These are the plants
that shelter the fish
that swim in the lake
where people live.

These are the waters
that feed the lake
that nourish the plants
that shelter the fish
that swim in the lake
where people live.



These are the shorelines
that filter the waters
that feed the lake
that nourish the plants
that shelter the fish
that swim in the lake
where people live.

HOWEVER,

These are the clear-cut shorelines
and manicured lawns
that can't filter the water
that pollute the lake
that choke the plants
that kill the fish
that used to live in the lake

where no-one can live.

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Jennifer Smith won the top prize of $500,000 on a Plinko ticket purchased at On the Spot Variety in Minden. /Photo submitted by OLG

Minden woman wins $500,000 on Plinko

CHAD INGRAM
County Life Staff

A Minden woman has won $500,000, the top prize, on a Plinko ticket purchased at On the Spot Variety.

Jennifer Smith received the ticket as a gift from her dad. As a press release from the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation explains, the game holds a special place for the family.

"He purchased tickets for the whole family because of the connection we had to the game," Smith said in the release. "My husband built a Plinko board game board a few years ago for a Jack and Jill party game."

Smith's ticket included a CHIP win, meaning she got to travel to the OLG prize centre in Toronto and drop a chip into a giant Plinko board, a scene straight out of *The Price is Right.*

"When we went to the store to have it validated, everything became a blur," Smith said. "We were oblivious to what we won."

When Smith dropped the chip into the board, it landed on the biggest prize amount possible – half a million dollars.

"When I dropped the chip, I was unaware of what was happening," she said. "I felt like I wasn't even breathing. When the prize amount was announced, it felt like a dream come true.

Smith split her winnings with her parents, and intends to put some toward her children's education, as well as some improvements around the house. "My oldest daughter wants new bedroom furniture and my youngest said she wants a surprise," she said. "... This feeling is like nothing I've experienced before."

In late 2020, another Minden woman won $100,000 on an Instant Crossword ticket, also purchased at On the Spot Variety.

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Boiling season for maple syrups lasted just three weeks

from page 8

believes there is value at just being at the Farmer's Market.

"It's not just about the sales that you make there. It promotes you and you make lots of repeat customers so nothing but positive experiences with the Farmers' Market," he said.

Last year, the Bramhams didn't become a vendor due to concern for his family and his elderly parents potentially contracting COVID-19. He plans to return as a vendor in 2022.

Winterdance Dogsled Tours has been making maple syrup since 2017.

The family operation is led by well-known Haliburton musher Hank DeBruin and wife, Tanya McCready, who is defacto spokesperson and everything else that is required for the business.

She concurred with other producers about the weather factored into lower-than-usual yields, with close to 65 per cent of what they produced last year, which is down from the high of 0.9 a litre per tree last year.

She's heard from other maple syrup producers they were down as much as 20 per cent so relatively speaking Winterdance is "feeling very grateful."

The operation started boiling on March 20 and finished April 7.

"Normally, we're still making syrup," she said, referencing to last week. "Every year of the five years we're making syrup the last week of April."

They started with close to 400 taps in the first year and now are at 2,000 taps.

McCready said last year sales included at their trail head where they launch their dogsled tours from. They've also sold their products at the Eagle Lake Country Market and at the Kingston Farmers' Market.

This year Winterdance will not be joining vendors at the Haliburton County Farmers' Market.

During the autumn, they turned to selling their maple syrup online for the first time and found it very successful. It was prompted by the uncertainty of the farmers' market.

The shortfall means they will set aside the expected amount for retailers and for their subscription-based online customers and they will not be able to sell at their trail head this coming year.

Their top three destinations for online sales is the U.S., the United Kingdom and Italy. Online sales account for close to 50 per cent of all their sales. McCready said for Farmers' Market customers they will drop off [if close by] or arrange curbside pickup orders.

Like everyone, the tour operator and maple syrup has seen it's share of revenue losses, reaching in the thousands. The attitude though is important and it's all about moving forward.

"This year has just been economic impact after economic impact. We'll just add it to everything else," she said.

However, for all the challenges, she said there is optimism for better times ahead.

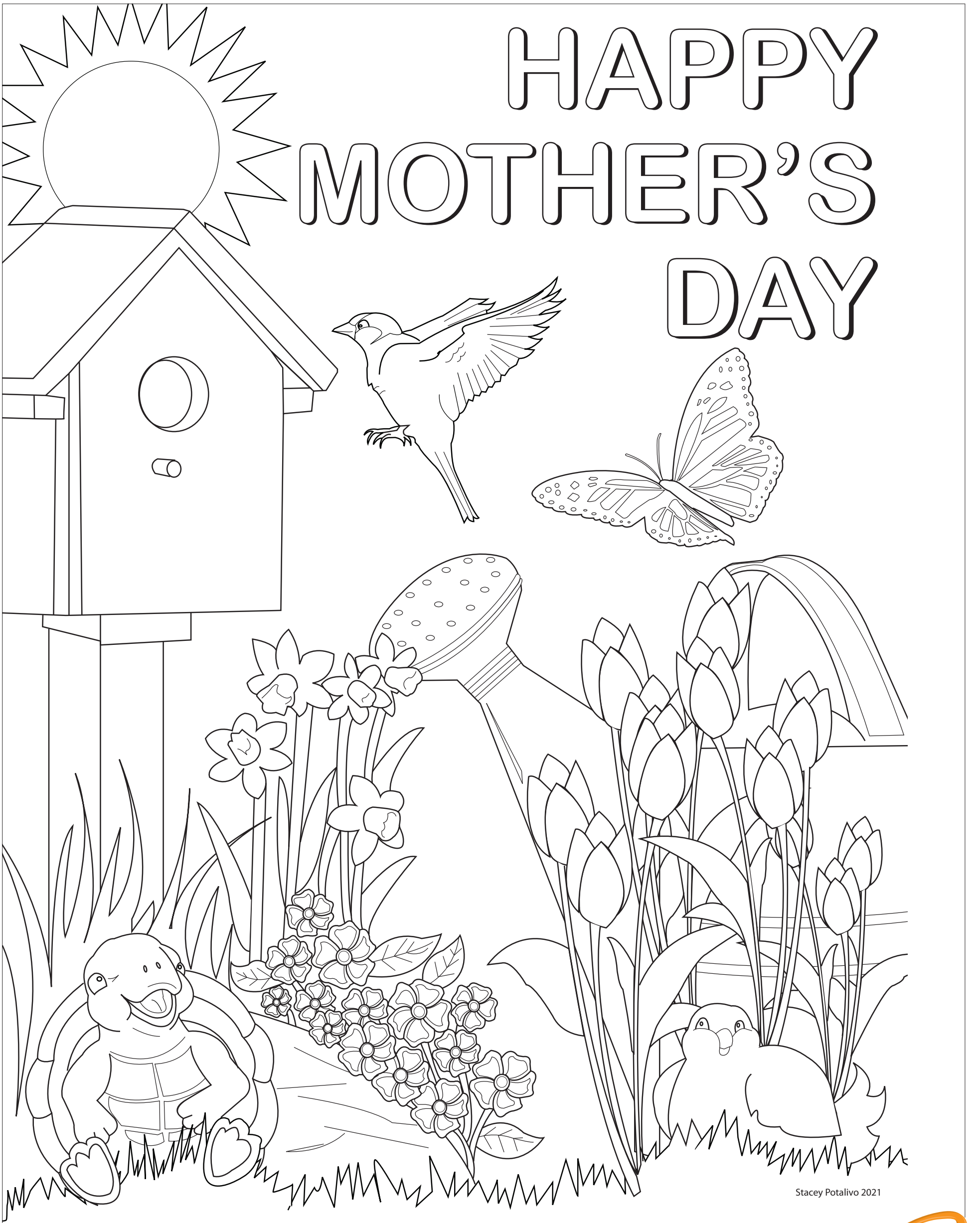
The plan is to add another 500 taps for next year. This poor situation is what she is characterizing as a "blip."

"Dogsledding season was basically two-thirds lost compared to a normal winter with the shutdown. It's been a beat up kind of year financially, but, you know, you look around the world, even Ontario is so depressing right now, and the rest of the world is pulling out of this. So the way we look at it is we'll survive this for sure until next winter," she said.

She is thankful for the financial support by the Haliburton County Development Corporation for enabling their expansion efforts.

She adds they've added summer backcountry tours for this coming season and it came from necessity, which will prove to a positive from a negative situation.

"A year from now when we get out of this we'll just be so much stronger and have so much diversity to our business it'll be a good thin in the long run," she said.



With Mother's Day on the horizon, County Life is launching a colouring contest for local children. Colour in the picture above, take a photo once you're finished and submit it to mike@haliburtonpress.com to be entered into a draw to win a $50 gift card to any restaurant of your mother's choosing in Haliburton County. Good luck!

Spring cleaning

Archie Stouffer Elementary School students and siblings Spencer Upton, Grade 8, left, Athena Upton, Grade 3 and Lucas, Grade 4, gather with the collected litter after their effort to pick up trash to recognize Earth Day this year on April 22. /Submitted by Angela Pilgrim

Archie Stouffer Elementary School students and siblings Colten Simms, Grade 4, and Landyn, Grade 5 show the trash they collected as part of a neighbourhood clean-up on Earth Day. /Submitted by Angela Pilgrim

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M	D	M	S	V	O	I	M	R	T	C	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	B
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T	T	I	V	V	F	A	T	K	M	R	H	P	O	M	G	E	X	E	I

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

AFFECTION
AUNT
BREAK
BREAKFAST
CARING
DEDICATED
DESSERT
FANFARE
FOSTER
GATHERING
GRANDMOTHER
GREETING CARD
HONOR
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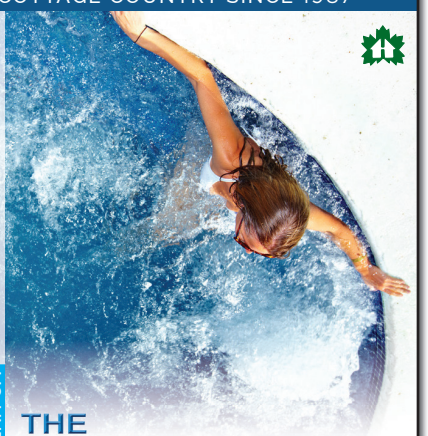

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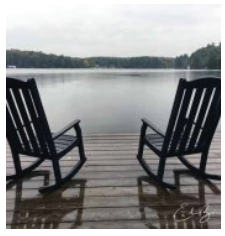

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- Close to Haliburton Forest

Dagmar Boettcher**
457-5968

Dark Lake

- 1426 s.f. stone home with attached garage
- 3 beds, 3 baths, studio/office, sunroom
- Hardwood floors, spacious century rooms
- Wet slip boathouse, in town location

Andy Campbell
854-0292

Highway 35 $999,000

- Great commercial lot right on highway 35
- Close to new business developments
- Fantastic business opportunity

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- Granite, Flag Stone, Lg Beams, Deep Swimming

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- 2727 Sq ft, 4 Bdm, 2 Bath, Mn Fl Laundry
- Lrg Kitchen, Family/Rec Rm, Office/Den
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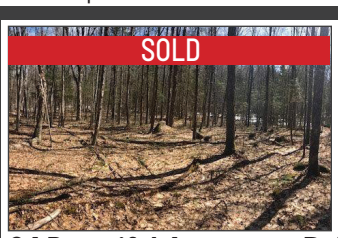

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286-2138 x 226

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Lindsay Elder*
457-5878

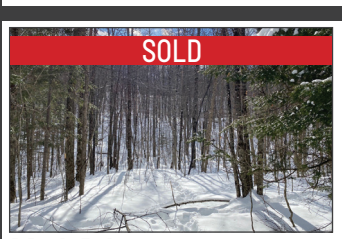
Minnicock Lake Rd $159,000

- 10 acres, nicely treed on year round road,
- only 10 minutes from Haliburton

Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 229

Little Hawk Lake $699,000

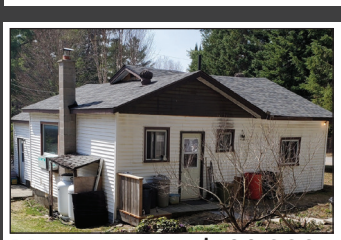
- Western exposure on a stunning point lot
- Premium property, 300+ ft of clean frontage
- Surrounded by crown land on 2 sides
- Rustic 1600+ SF cottage plus a boathouse



Susanne James*
& Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

Mink Rd.

- Approx 1 acre, nicely forested, good privacy
- Close to public access to Long/Miskwabi Lake
- Year-round Municipal Road access
- Minutes to Haliburton Village



David Lee*
286-2138 x 227

Minden Home $199,000

- 2 bedroom home close to town.
- New Fap furnace. roof reshingled 3 yrs ago.
- Easy access needs some TLC.

Donna McCallum*
455-2054

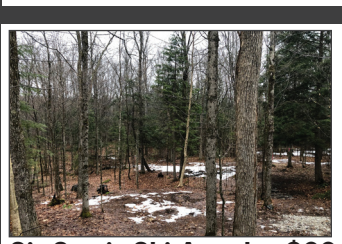
Drag Lake $1,125,500

- Scandinavian log home
- 1610 sf, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths
- Open concept, cathedral ceilings
- Clean, clear waterfront, large lake

Brandon Nimigon***
457-2128 x 127

Downtown Haliburton $600,000

- 1926 historic home, renovated
- 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1873+ sf.
- Secluded backyard
- Close to everything!



Karen Nimigon**
457-6505

Sir Sam's Ski Area lot $99,000

- 2.2 acre lot, quiet country get-away
- Walking trails, creek, wildlife
- Seasonal road, off-grid

Kelly Kay*
705-457-6841
Kirsten Rae*
705-854-1454

Stanhope Airport Rd $349,000

- 2 bedroom, 3 bath, 1215 sf
- Perfect starter or retirement home
- Many upgrades, low maintenance
- Central location, close to lake access

Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Harcourt $189,900

- Weekend get-a-way 8.5 acres,
- 2 room cabin with 2 canoes,
- boat, snowmobile included.

Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

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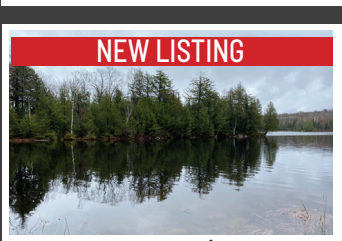

Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

Lt Glamor Lake $349,000

- 189 FT frontage
- Shallow bay, ideal for canoe/kayak
- Crown Land borders north side
- Cottage needs repair

Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 232

Porky's Rd . $93,500

- 1.2 acres, 260 ft frontage
- 5 minutes to Minden, hardwood trees
- Close to Drag River access & Canning Lake

Tom Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 225

Minden Commercial Lot $169,900

- Excellent location with maximum exposure
- Commercial zoning with many possible uses
- Investment or your own business

Andrea Wilson**
705-457-6694

Kennisis Lake $1,699,000

- Turn-key 2,700 SF waterfront home
- Open concept, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths
- 200+ FT on peaceful Paddy's Bay
- Premium Lake boating on Kennisis

Kirby Keks*
705-457-2128
x138

Wilberforce $599,000

- Picture perfect home with pool & hot tub
- 9 acres with trails

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Bracebridge Home $530,000

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LOOK INSIDE

Quit staring!

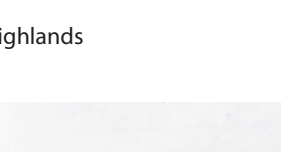
Here's looking at you kid: photographer Lyn Winan's portrait of a Great Gray.

See page 15

Wine, art & thou

Linda McLean's music joined with poetry, art and wine in Dorset.

See page 19



A two-fer

The museum's heritage garden will teach kids and stock the local food bank.

See page 3

Gimme a hug

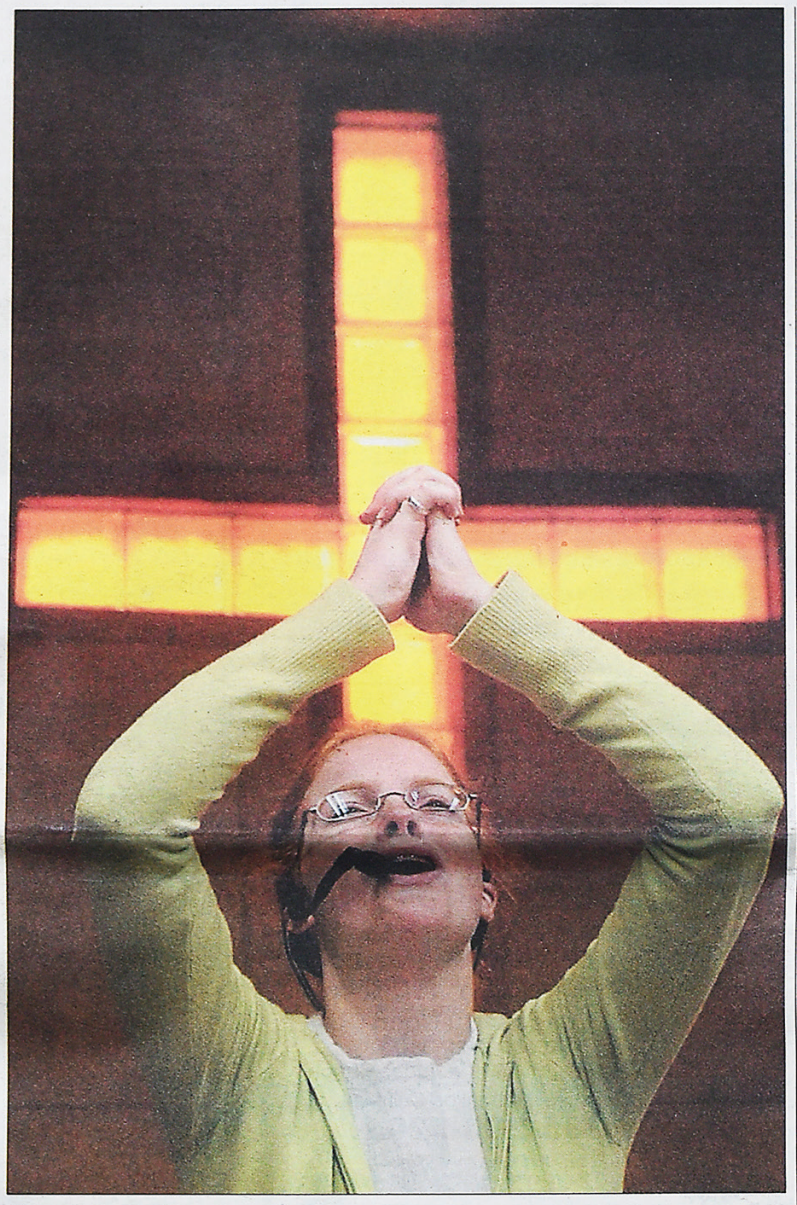
It's been a long road but the Dorset seniors housing project is well on its way.

See page 4

In Quotes

"We all are letting go on some level at some time and nothing is more vital than being present for our children and loved ones in the 'now.'"

Elke Zilla,
see page 9



Soul music

Melissa Guyatt gestures to the ceiling during her performance with brother David, both from the Lost but Found band, at the 28th annual Friendship Tea hosted by the United Church Women at the Zion United Church in Carnarvon on Wednesday afternoon. The event help raise $275 for the SIRCH Haliburton Community Hospice Program. The Guyatts were assisted by sister Leanne and friend Daniel Roberts. (Photo, Darren Lum.)

Expect to pay more local taxes

Province gives County less; property owners will pay more

by **GRAEME STEMP**
Times staff

If the new funding for municipal governments seems a little confusing that's because it is.

"I now understand what the funding means," confirms Laura Janke, Treasurer for Haliburton County, "but I work with these numbers all day every day."

Once you cut through the complex government language, it means that taxpayers will be paying more property taxes over time, despite local governments' efforts to stop that.

"The provincial government's phasing out a grant to help pay for services they dropped on us [through downloading]. By 2008, the county will be receiving more than $1 million less than in 2005," said Janke.

Adding to the confusion, the provincial government shifted the funding in their new Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund from county to municipality. That means counties will receive less funding while some municipalities receive much more.

Haliburton County will receive almost $4 million in provincial funding in 2005, to go towards the total cost of providing the county's services, which total $8.74 million. But just one year later, the province will be giving almost $700,000 less.

"Municipalities may end up paying for some county costs, or we may have to borrow money, or the provincial government may address our needs in their upcoming budget – we just don't know yet," says Janke.

For the average taxpayer, that uncertainty may be costly. In Haliburton, a residential house worth $100,000 paid $209 in property taxes for county services last year. In 2005, with the current money from the province, that same residence will have to pay $226 in property tax.

Janke says the county doesn't like the increase "but the province is giving us less money and our roads, ambulances and social housing are not getting cheaper."

Bring on an election, MP Devolin says

Local MP Barry Devolin says he is unimpressed by the deal between the federal Liberals and the NDP.

"My leader has said that he'll ask Conservative MPs to defeat the government at its first opportunity – and that may come as early as Tuesday," Devolin said in a press release issued on Thursday. "This is not how Parliament should work, and as soon as our members get back to Ottawa one of the first topics of discussion will be how we can defeat this corrupt Liberal government that will do anything to cling to power."

At Wednesday's county council meeting, local politicians passed a motion asking the Conservatives to hold off on forcing an election until after the federal budget is passed into law. They are relying on income from a new gasoline tax incentive that was included in the budget. If the government falls, the

see DEVOLIN'S *page 2*

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The Haliburton Real Estate Team

FARQUHAR LAKE
$599,900

This 2-bdrm, 1 bath waterfront cottage is perfectly nestled in a wooded lot and enjoys panoramic views of the shimmering lake.Sand bottom waterfront with 101 ft of frontage. Soak up the summer sun while on the cedar dock or on the lakeside lounging area. A bright open concept with vaulted ceiling. The recently updated kitchen is finished with white cabinetry, solid wood butcher block countertops and stainless steel appliances, with a walkout to the outdoor dining area with lake views. This stunning property is a rare find. It will be love at first sight!

KUSHOG LAKE
$569,000

The amazing sunsets are a must to see! This seasonal 3-bdrm cottage is perfectly situated on a large level lot with 98 feet of frontage on Kushog Lake. Incredible big waters view up the lake located in a quiet bay. Excellent sandy shoreline, great for building sandcastles with the kids later in the summer. Ample space for the whole family. Spacious kitchen finished with dark cabinetry and features a beautiful skylight. Large indoor dining combined with living room and games room. Private docking system and large sunny lakefront deck.

BOBCAYGEON ROAD
$399,000

It's the perfect 4-bdrm, 2 bath year-round home conveniently located within walking distance to the town of Minden. This open concept home has many recent updates. Attached garage heated with propane heater and enclosed breezeway. Fully finished lower level. Beautiful, easily maintained gardens. Bright and sunny level fenced in yard backs. This stunning home is a pleasure to show and a must to see.

VICTORIA STREET
$309,000

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VACANT LOTS

LOUISE LANE
35+AC $275,000

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